

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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March 4, 2003

FROM: KEN A. MILLER, Director
Department of Public Works - **Transportation**

**SUBJECT: CEQA EXEMPTION FOR THE LOWER DESERT OVERLAY PROJECT IN THE
JOSHUA TREE AREA**

RECOMMENDATION: (1) Find that the Lower Desert Overlay Project in the Joshua Tree area is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Class 1, Section 15301(c) {Minor Alterations}, and (2) Approve the project as defined in the Notice of Exemption and direct the Clerk of the Board to post the Notice of Exemption.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: The Lower Desert Overlay project consists of two roads in the Joshua Tree area: El Cajon Drive between Conejo Avenue and Sunset Road (a distance of 0.32 mile) and Sunburst Drive between Conejo Avenue and Sunset Road (a distance of 0.30 mile). Department staff has reviewed the condition of these roads and has determined that the surfaces of these roads have deteriorated and require an asphalt overlay. The pavement on these roads will receive crack sealing, pothole repair, and an asphalt overlay which will prolong the life of the road and restore the driving surface. All work will be performed within the existing road right-of-way. Environmental staff of the Advance Planning Division of the Land Use Services Department has reviewed this item and recommended a categorical exemption for this project. This project qualifies for an exemption in accordance with CEQA guidelines Section 15301(c). An exempt project allows for minor repairs and alterations with negligible expansion of the existing use. As such, when the Board considers the environmental findings, the filing of a Notice of Exemption is required.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This item was reviewed by Deputy County Counsel Charles S. Scolastico on February 10, 2003 and by the County Administrative Office (Patricia M. Cole, Administrative Analyst III) on February 23, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The action to find the project categorically exempt has minimal financial impact. A separate item will be brought to the Board to approve the plans, specifications, and authorize advertisement for bids for construction of the project. The total project cost is estimated at \$39,000, which will be financed by funds which will be included in the Fiscal Year 2003/2004 Transportation Budget (SAA-TRA-TRA-15 - HA0081).

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): 3rd

PRESENTER: Ken A. Miller, 387-7906

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

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